

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2004. Appreciation is expressed for the allowance of claims 2, 5 and 9 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 15-23 and 25.

By the present Amendment, claim 14 has been canceled, without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a Continuation application directed to the subject matter of this claim. By virtue of this amendment, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claim 14 as being unpatentable over Aoki is obviated.

Also by the present Amendment, claim 15 has been redrafted into independent form to incorporate the subject matter of its parent claim 14. In light of the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-23 and 25 if claim 15 was rewritten into independent form, entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 15-23 and 25 is respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 24 has been amended to depend on claim 2 rather than on canceled claim 1. By virtue of this amendment, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 24 is overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and removal of this rejection, and allowance of claim 24, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.40562X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By



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GEM/dlt

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